



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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SILVERTON FAMILY LEARNING CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Silverton, CO – The Silverton Family Learning Center received a \$25,000 Community Facility Grant from USDA Rural Development. This is the first licensed infant and toddler center in Silverton and San Juan County. The center will provide service for 31 children, newborn to age five.

“This project is an unprecedented act of cooperation between San Juan County, the Town of Silverton, the Silverton School District, the State of Colorado, a private corporation, and a local non-profit.” says Karen Hoskin, SFLC President, founder and building project coordinator. “We couldn’t have pulled it off without each player stepping up. We hope the project will be an example of what rural facilities like this can be: energy efficient and green, with a chemical-free interior for children’s benefit, and with long term municipal and state partnerships at play. Best of all, we offer a high quality learning program that also helps families send two earners to work, thereby reducing poverty among our children. Who doesn’t win,” said Hoskin.

Funding provided through the Rural Development grant will be used to purchase playground equipment and fencing for the new preschool/daycare facility. “This project was a collaborative effort leveraged by contributions from local, state and federal levels. The Community Facility Grant from USDA Rural Development will enhance the quality of life for children in this area,” said Joe Hostetler, Colorado Acting State Director, USDA Rural Development. Other contributors to the project include the San Juan County Capital Building Fund, Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Silverton Family Learning Center, Colorado Preschool Program, Colorado Department of Human Services, and the Colorado Quality Child Care Expansion Grant program.

As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting Colorado’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/co/index.html>

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